Interlacing Families II: Mixed Characteristic Polynomials and the Kadison-Singer Problem

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e.g. Given a set family $S_1, \ldots, S_m \subset [n]$, find a red-blue coloring $[n] = R \cup B$ such that every set is half red and half blue.

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How well can you do in general?

"How well can you approximate a discrete object by a continuous one."

In general, a random coloring gives

$$disc := \max_{i} \left| |S_i \cap R| - \frac{|S_i|}{2} \right| \le O(\sqrt{n \log m}).$$

"How well can you approximate a discrete object by a continuous one."

Spencer: There exists a coloring with

$$disc := \max_{i} \left| |S_i \cap R| - \frac{|S_i|}{2} \right| \le 3\sqrt{\operatorname{nlog}(\frac{m}{n})}.$$

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A Spectral Discrepancy Theorem

Given vectors $v_1, ..., v_m \in \mathbf{R}^n$, their **energy** in a test direction $u \in \mathbf{R}^n$, ||u|| = 1, is the quadratic form

$$Q(u) \coloneqq \sum_{i} \langle u, v_i \rangle^2$$

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$$\bigvee$$

Example.

 $v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 \in \mathbf{R}^2$

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$$\bigvee$$

Example.

u = (1,0)

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$$\begin{array}{c} \langle u, v_1 \rangle^2 + \langle u, v_2 \rangle^2 \\ + \langle u, v_3 \rangle^2 + \langle u, v_4 \rangle^2 \\ = 1 + 0 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} \\ = 1.5 \end{array}$$

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$$(u, v_{1})^{2} + \langle u, v_{2} \rangle^{2} + \langle u, v_{3} \rangle^{2} + \langle u, v_{4} \rangle^{2} = 0 + 1 + \frac{3}{4} + \frac{3}{4} = 2.5$$

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$$\forall ||u|| = 1 \qquad \sum_{i} \langle u, v_i \rangle^2 = 1$$

Main Theorem. Suppose $v_1, \ldots, v_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are vectors $||v_i|| \le \epsilon$ and energy one in each direction:

$$\forall ||u|| = 1 \qquad \sum_{i} \langle u, v_i \rangle^2 = 1$$

$$\forall ||u|| = 1 \qquad \sum_{i \in T_j} \langle u, v_i \rangle^2 = \frac{1}{2} \pm 5\epsilon$$

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$$\cup \qquad \bigcup$$

"Each part approximates the whole."

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Theorem: Good partition always exists.









The norm condition

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In One Dimension

Main Theorem. Suppose $v_1, \ldots, v_m \in \mathbb{R}^1$ are numbers with $|v_i| \le \epsilon$ and energy one

$$\sum_{i} v_i^2 = 1.$$

Then there is a partition $T_1 \cup T_2$ such that **each part** has energy close to half

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Optimal in high dim

Given vectors v_1, \ldots, v_m write quadratic form as

$$Q(u) = \sum_{i} \langle v_i, u \rangle^2 = u^T \left(\sum_{i} v_i v_i^T \right) u$$

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Isotropy:

$$\sum_{i} v_i v_i^T = I_n$$

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Comparision: $A \leq B \iff u^T A u \leq u^T B u \qquad \forall u$

Main Theorem. Suppose $v_1, \dots, v_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are vectors $||v_i|| \le \epsilon$ and

$$\sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T} = I_{n}$$

Then there is a partition $T_1 \cup T_2$ such that

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} - 5\epsilon\right)I \leq \sum_{i \in T_j} v_i v_i^T \leq \left(\frac{1}{2} + 5\epsilon\right)I$$

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$$\sum_{i} w_{i}w_{i}^{T} = W \ge 0$$
Consider $v_{i} \coloneqq W^{-\frac{1}{2}}w_{i}$ and apply theorem to v_{i} .
Normalized vectors have $||v_{i}||^{2} = ||W^{-\frac{1}{2}}w_{i}||^{2} = \epsilon$
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Unnormalized Theorem

Given arbitrary vectors $w_1, ..., w_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ there is a partition $[m] = T_1 \cup T_2$ with

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} - \sqrt{\epsilon}\right) \left(\sum_{i} w_{i} w_{i}^{T}\right) \leq \sum_{i \in T_{j}} w_{i} w_{i}^{T} \leq \left(\frac{1}{2} - \sqrt{\epsilon}\right) \left(\sum_{i} w_{i} w_{i}^{T}\right)$$

Where $\epsilon \coloneqq \max_{i} || W^{-\frac{1}{2}} w_{i} ||^{2}$

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Where $\epsilon \coloneqq \max_{i} || W^{-\frac{1}{2}} w_{i} ||^{2}$

Any quadratic form in which no vector has too much influence can be split into two representative pieces.

Applications

Given an undirected graph G = (V, E), consider its Laplacian matrix:

$$L_G = \sum_{ij\in E} (\delta_i - \delta_j) (\delta_i - \delta_j)^T$$

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Quadratic form:

$$x^{T}Lx = \sum_{ij\in E} (x_{i} - x_{j})^{2} \text{ for } x \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$$

An example:



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 $\mathbf{x}^{T} L \mathbf{x} = \sum_{i,i^{2} \in I} (\mathbf{x}(i) - \mathbf{x}(j))^{2}$

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 $\mathbf{x}^{T} L \mathbf{x} = \sum_{i,i^{2} \in I} (\mathbf{x}(i) - \mathbf{x}(j))^{2} = 28$



Another example: $\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0^2 \\$

 $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{L}_G \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{3}$

Cuts and the Quadratic Form

For characteristic vector $x_S \in \{0, 1\}^n$ of $S \subseteq V$

$$x_S^T L_G x_S = \sum_{ij \in E} w_{ij} (x(i) - x(j))^2$$
$$= \sum_{ij \in (S,\overline{S})} w_{ij}$$
$$= w t_G (S, \overline{S})$$

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The Laplacian Quadratic form encodes the entire cut structure of the graph.











Recursive Application Gives:

1. Graph Sparsification Theorem [Batson-Spielman-S'09]: Every graph **G** has a *weighted* O(1)-cut approximation **H** with O(n) edges.



Approximating One Graph by Another

Cut Approximation [Benczur-Karger'96]



For **every** cut, weight of edges in $\mathbf{G} \approx$ weight of edges in \mathbf{H}

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Approximating One Graph by Another

Cut Approximaties G and H have same cuts. Equivalent for min cut, max cut, sparsest cut...

For every cut,

weight of edges in $\mathbf{G}\approx$ weight of edges in \mathbf{H}

2. Unweighted Graph Sparsification Every transitive graph **G** has an unweighted O(1)-cut approximation **H** with O(n) edges.



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Same cut structure

Signal $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$. Discrete Fourier Transform

$$\hat{x}(a) = \langle x, \left(\exp\left(-\frac{a2\pi ik}{n}\right)\right)_{k \le n} \rangle$$

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Uncertainty Principle: x and \hat{x} cannot be simultaneously localized.

 $|supp(x)| \times |supp(\hat{x})| \ge n$

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If x is supported on $|S| = \sqrt{n}$ coordinates, $supp(\hat{x}) \ge \sqrt{n}$

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$$\hat{x}(a) = \langle x, \left(\exp\left(-\frac{a2\pi ik}{n}\right)\right)_{k \le n} \rangle$$

Stronger Uncertainty Principle:

For every subset $|S| = \sqrt{n}$, there is a partition

$$[n] = T_1 \cup \cdots T_{\sqrt{n}}$$

$$||x|_S||_2 \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} ||\hat{x}|_{T_i}||_2 \qquad \text{for all } x \text{ and } T_i$$

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Proof.

Let
$$f_k = \left(\exp\left(-\frac{a2\pi ik}{n}\right)\right)_{k \le n}$$
 be the Fourier basis.
Fix a subset $S \subset [n]$ of \sqrt{n} coords.

The restricted norm is:

$$||x|_{S}||^{2} = \sum_{k} \langle x|_{S}, f_{k} \rangle^{2}$$

a quadratic form in \sqrt{n} dimensions.

Apply the theorem.

Applications in analytic number theory, harmonic analysis.

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Apply the theorem.

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Anderson 1979: Reduced to a question about finite matrices. "Paving Conjecture"



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Akemann-Anderson 1991: Reduced to a question about finite **projection** matrices.

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Weaver 2002: Discrepancy theoretic formulation of the same question.

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In General

Anything that can be encoded as a quadratic form can be split into pieces while preserving certain properties.

Many different things can be gainfully encoded this way.

Proof

Main Theorem



Then there is a partition $T_1 \cup T_2$ such that

 $\left(\frac{1}{2} - 5\sqrt{\epsilon}\right)I \leq \sum_{i \in T_i} v_i v_i^T \leq \left(\frac{1}{2} + 5\sqrt{\epsilon}\right)I$

Equivalent Theorem

Suppose
$$v_1, ..., v_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$$
 are vectors
 $||v_i||^2 \le \epsilon$ and $\sum_i v_i v_i^T = I_n$

Then there is a partition $T_1 \cup T_2$ such that

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Trick: embed in blocks of $2n \times 2n$ matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum_{i \in T_1} v_i v_i^T & 0 \\ 0 & \sum_{i \in T_2} v_i v_i^T \end{bmatrix}$$

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Trick: embed in blocks of $2n \times 2n$ matrix

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{i \in T_1} v_i v_i^T & 0 \\ 0 & \sum_{i \in T_2} v_i v_i^T \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \max_j \left\| \sum_{i \in T_j} v_i v_i^T \right\|$$

Define independent random $v_1, \dots, v_m \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$

$$\boldsymbol{v_{i}} = \begin{cases} \binom{v_{i}}{0} \text{ with prob } 0.5\\ \binom{0}{v_{i}} \text{ with prob. } 0.5 \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\mathbb{E}\left\|\sum_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i}^{T}\right\| = \mathbb{E}_{T} \max_{j} \left\|\sum_{i \in T_{j}} \boldsymbol{v}_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i}^{T}\right\|$$

The Matrix Chernoff Bound

$$v_{1}, ..., v_{m} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \text{ are independent,} \\ \mathbb{E} \sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T} = \frac{l}{2} \text{ and } ||v_{i}||^{2} \leq \epsilon$$
Tropp 2011
$$\mathbb{E} \left\| \sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T} \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2} + O(\sqrt{\epsilon \log n})$$

Analogous for the scalar Chernoff bound for sums of independent bdd random numbers.
The Matrix Chernoff Bound

$$v_1, \dots, v_m \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$$
 are independent,
 $\mathbb{E} \sum_i v_i v_i^T = \frac{I}{2}$ and $||v_i||^2 \le \epsilon$
Tropp 2011
 $\| \sum_{i=1}^{n} \| u_i \|_1$

$$\mathbb{E}\left\|\sum_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i}^{T}\right\| \leq \frac{1}{2} + O\left(\sqrt{\epsilon \log n}\right)$$

Analogous for the scalar Chernoff bound for sums of independent bdd random numbers.

Main Theorem

If
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Idea 2: The Expected Polynomial

Just like yesterday,

$$\left\|\sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T}\right\| = \lambda_{max} \left(\det(xI - \sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T})\right)$$

Consider

$$\mu(x) := \mathbb{E} \det\left(xI - \sum_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i}^{T}\right)$$

1. Show that there exist v_1, \ldots, v_m with

$$\lambda_{max} \chi \left(\sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T} \right) \leq \lambda_{max} \mathbb{E} \chi \left(\sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T} \right)$$

1



1. Show that there exist $v_1, ..., v_m$ with $\lambda_{max} \chi \left(\sum_{i} v_i v_i^T \right) \leq \lambda_{max} \mathbb{E} \chi \left(\sum_{i} v_i v_i^T \right)$

 $\left\{\chi_{(\sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T})}(x)\right\}_{v_{i} \sim v_{i}}$ is an interlacing family

 $\mathbb{E}\chi_{(\sum_{i} v_{i}v_{i}^{T})}(x)$ is real-rooted for all product distributions on signings.

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 $\mathbb{E}\chi_{(\sum_{i} v_{i}v_{i}^{T})}(x)$ is real-rooted for all product distributions on signings.

$$\mathbb{E}\chi\left(\sum_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i}\boldsymbol{v}_{i}^{T}\right) = \prod_{i=1}^{m} \left(1 - \frac{\partial}{\partial z_{i}}\right) \det\left(xI + \sum_{i} z_{i}A_{i}\right)\Big|_{z_{1} = \dots = z_{m} = 0}$$

1. Show that there exist v_1, \ldots, v_m with

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2. Calculate

$$\mathbb{E}\chi\left(\sum_{i}\boldsymbol{v}_{i}\boldsymbol{v}_{i}^{T}\right)$$

Central Identity

Suppose $v_1, ..., v_m$ are **independent** random vectors with $A_i \coloneqq \mathbb{E} v_i v_i^T$. Then

$$\mathbb{E}\det\left(xI - \sum_{i} v_{i}v_{i}^{T}\right)$$
$$= \prod_{i=1}^{m} \left(1 - \frac{\partial}{\partial z_{i}}\right) \det\left(xI + \sum_{i} z_{i}A_{i}\right)\Big|_{z_{1} = \dots = z_{m} = 0}$$

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2. Calculate

$$\mathbb{E}\chi =: \mu(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{m} (1 - \partial_{z_i}) \det\left(xI + \sum_i z_i A_i\right) \Big|_{z_1 = \cdots 0} \mathbb{V}$$

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3. Bound the largest root $\lambda_{max}\mu(x) \leq 1 + \sqrt{\epsilon}$

Assuming $\mathbb{E} \sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T} = I$ and $||v_{i}||^{2} \leq \epsilon$

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1

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Assuming $\mathbb{E} \sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T} = I$ and $||v_{i}||^{2} \leq \epsilon$

Need to bound the roots of

$$\left. \prod_{i=1}^{m} \left(1 - \partial_{z_i} \right) \det \left(xI + \sum_i z_i A_i \right) \right|_{z_1 = \dots = 0}$$

as a function of the A_i .

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Basic Question: What does $(1 - \partial)$ do to roots?

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Answer: Interlacing

The Univariate Case

Basic Question: What does $(1 - \partial)$ do to roots?

Answer: Interlacing

Consider
$$p(x) = (x - \lambda_1) \dots (x - \lambda_n)$$
 distinct
 $p'(x) = \sum_j \prod_{i \neq j} (x - \lambda_i)$

Then $\frac{p'(x)}{p(x)} = \sum_{i} \frac{1}{x - \lambda_i}$ is a rational function with *n* poles.

A Rational Function













The Barrier Function



The Barrier Function



To bound roots of p - p', find a point above the roots of p with $\Phi_p(b) < 1$.

The Barrier Function



To bound roots of p - p', find a point above the roots of p with $\Phi_p(b) < 1$.

Level sets $\{\Phi_p < 1\}$ contain no zeros of p - p'

The Barrier Method [BSS'09]

Theorem. If **b** is above the roots of **p** and

$$\Phi_p(b) \le 1 - 1/\delta$$
 then
$$\Phi_{p-p'}(b+\delta) \le 1 - 1/\delta$$

The Barrier Method [BSS'09]

Theorem. If b is above the roots of p and

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Relates level sets of Φ_p to level sets of $\Phi_{(1-\partial)p}$

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Relates level sets of Φ_p to level sets of $\Phi_{(1-\partial)p}$

then

Robust version of $\{\Phi_p < 1\}$ argument – can be iterated.












Given p(x, y), I want to bound the roots of $(1 - \partial_x)(1 - \partial_y)p(x, y)$

Example: roots of p(x, y) real stable.



Example: roots of $(1 - \partial_y)p(x, y)$





Given
$$p(x, y)$$
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Evolution of Bivariate Φ Level Sets

p(x, y) real stable.



Evolution of Bivariate Φ Level Sets



The Bivariate Case $(1-\partial_y)p(x,y)$ 6 -----************ 0 -6

-6

-4

-2

0

2

4

6

8

10

12

















, , , , ,

Key Ingredient

Helton-Vinnikov'92: All bivariate real stable polynomials are determinants:

$$p(x,y) = \det(xA + yB + C)$$

with $A \ge 0, B \ge 0$

This implies that the bivariate barrier has the same properties as the univariate one, and the old proof goes through.

Basic Principle

Can track the evolution of multivariate zeros under $(1 - \partial_z)$ operators by studying related rational functions.

A quantitative version of the stability preserving property.

End Result

If
$$Tr(A_i) \le \epsilon$$
 and $\sum_i A_i = I$ then

$$\left. \prod_{i=1}^m \left(1 - \partial_{z_i} \right) \det \left(xI + \sum_i z_i A_i \right) \right|_{z_1 = \dots z_m = 0}$$

Has roots bounded by $(1 + \sqrt{\epsilon})^2$

3-Step Plan

1. Show that there exist v_1, \ldots, v_m with

$$\lambda_{max} \chi \left(\sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T} \right) \leq \lambda_{max} \mathbb{E} \chi \left(\sum_{i} v_{i} v_{i}^{T} \right) \mathbf{1}$$

2. Calculate

$$\mathbb{E}\chi =: \mu(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{m} (1 - \partial_{z_i}) \det\left(xI + \sum_i z_i A_i\right) \Big|_{z_1 = \cdots 0} \mathbb{V}$$

3. Bound the largest root $\lambda_{max}\mu(x) \leq 1 + \sqrt{\epsilon}$ Assuming $\mathbb{E}\sum_{i} v_{i}v_{i}^{T} = I$ and $||v_{i}||^{2} \leq \epsilon$

Main Theorem

If
$$v_1, ..., v_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$$
 are **independent**,

$$\mathbb{E} \sum_i v_i v_i^T = I \text{ and } ||v_i||^2 \le \epsilon$$

Then

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\left\|\sum_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i}^{T}\right\| \leq 1 + O(\sqrt{\epsilon})\right] > 0$$

Spectral Discrepancy Theorem

Suppose $v_1, \ldots, v_m \in \mathbf{R}^n$ are vectors $||v_i||^2 \leq \epsilon$ and

 $\sum v_i v_i^T = I_n$

Then there is a partition $T_1 \cup T_2$ such that

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} - 5\sqrt{\epsilon}\right)I \leq \sum_{i \in T_j} v_i v_i^T \leq \left(\frac{1}{2} + 5\sqrt{\epsilon}\right)I$$

Open Questions

Quantitative analysis of other stabilitypreserving operators.

More applications of discrepancy theorem.

Algorithms.

Two Tools

Matrix-Determinant Lemma:

$$det(M + vv^{T}) = det(M) det(I + M^{-1}vv^{T})$$
$$= det(M)(1 + v^{T}M^{-1}v)$$

Two Tools

Matrix-Determinant Lemma:

$$det(M + vv^{T}) = det(M) det(I + M^{-1}vv^{T})$$
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Jacobi's Formula:

 $\partial_t \det(M + tA) = \det(M) \partial_t (I + M^{-1}A)$ = $\det(M) Tr(M^{-1}A)$

 $\mathbb{E} \det(M - \boldsymbol{v}\boldsymbol{v}^{T}) = \mathbb{E} \det(M)(1 - \boldsymbol{v}^{T}M^{-1}\boldsymbol{v})$

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 $= \det(M) - \det(M) Tr(M^{-1} \mathbb{E} v v^{T})$

 $\mathbb{E} \det(M - \boldsymbol{v}\boldsymbol{v}^{T}) = \mathbb{E} \det(M)(1 - \boldsymbol{v}^{T}M^{-1}\boldsymbol{v})$ $= \det(\mathbf{M})(1 - \mathbb{E}Tr(M^{-1}\boldsymbol{v}\boldsymbol{v}^{T}))$ $= \det(M)(1 - Tr(M^{-1}\mathbb{E}\nu\nu^{T}))$ $= \det(M) - \det(M) Tr(M^{-1} \mathbb{E} v v^T)$ $= (1 - \partial_t) \det(M + t \mathbb{E} \boldsymbol{v} \boldsymbol{v}^T) |_{t=0}$
$$\mathbb{E} \det(M - \boldsymbol{v}\boldsymbol{v}^{T}) = (1 - \partial_{z}) \det(M + z\mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{v}\boldsymbol{v}^{T})\Big|_{z=0}$$

$$\mathbb{E} \det(M - vv^T) = (1 - \partial_z) \det(M + z \mathbb{E} vv^T) \Big|_{z=0}$$

$$\mathbb{E} \det(xI - v_1v_1^T - v_2v_2^T)$$

$$\mathbb{E} \det(M - \boldsymbol{v}\boldsymbol{v}^{T}) = (1 - \partial_{z}) \det(M + z\mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{v}\boldsymbol{v}^{T})\Big|_{z=0}$$

$$\mathbb{E} \det(xI - v_1 v_1^T - v_2 v_2^T) = (1 - \partial_{z_1}) \mathbb{E} \det(xI - v_2 v_2^T + z_1 A_1)|_{z_1 = 0}$$

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